



Greetings to all from DuBois Center!

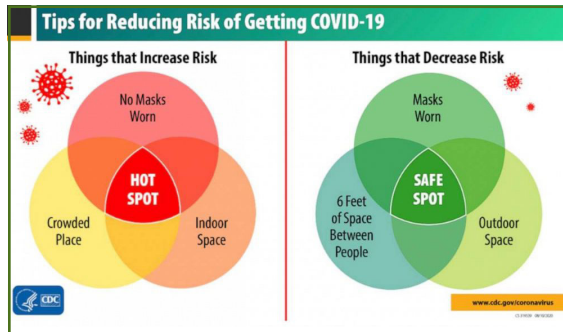
It would be impossible to say in words all of the ways I see God's Spirit moving at DuBois Center. This Easter Season, I am reminded that we are a resurrection people - by my walks around the property, going to see the horses, and even connecting with you all

virtually in the office. After a time of limited activity and programming on site, the Spirit of God is calling DuBois Center into a new chapter, starting with the reopening of our residential camps for summer 2021.

Of course, this opportunity does not present itself without challenges! Like many of you, I have been attending worship online for much of the last year. Like many of you, I have read countless articles on best practices, how to reduce community spread, vaccines, masks, and many other things that before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, I never would have thought about.

Perhaps my most fundamental belief is that we serve a creative God. As we move forward in our new normal, I refer back to this belief of mine often. Much of our COVID-19 related planning for residential camps this summer has been in the spirit of that creativity, while also based on frank conversations with professional organizations about what works and does not work when it comes to reducing the risk of getting COVID-19.

At DuBois Center, we want to take some of the anxiety and stress off of parents making decisions about sending kids to camp. As such, this summer DuBois Center will be opening under the strict safety protocol recommendations of the Outdoor Ministry Association, the American Camping Association, The Center for Disease Control, and State of Illinois guidelines and restrictions. We will be closely following the guidelines, tracking new information as it becomes available, and adjusting our programming plans accordingly.



While safety protocols are being finalized for each aspect of camp from check-in, cabin groups, activities, food service, and pick-up, our precautions center around a "rule of 3" in which if two of the following three are in place, risk of viral spread is low:

- 1) Outside
- 2) Physical Distancing between small groups
- 3) Wearing a Mask

Understandably, there are mixed opinions about sending kids back to camp, so we are offering some additional options. We are providing one in-person "family camp" during July in which families are welcome to come to camp and enjoy some of our activities together – while not sharing sleeping space with people outside of their family group. We are also piloting our "DuBois Delivered" option – can't make it to camp? We'll bring some camp to you! We hope that by offering these two alternatives, more people can get a taste of what makes DuBois Center special. Details of these new offerings can be found on our website (DuBoisCenter.org) or by calling the camp office. (618.787.2202.)



We hope to see you in some capacity this summer! I look forward to being a part of the Illinois South Conference, and believe God has great things in store for DuBois Center!

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DuBois Center is the camp and retreat center of the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Because we affirm the value of all God's people, the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, ability, national origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or gender identity. To the extent possible, we endeavor to accommodate those with a variety of physical, mental, emotional, medical, or dietary needs.